

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Schmit, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Sure.

SENATOR HEFNER: Senator Schmit, I didn't...I didn't get that line on page 4 that you were changing. You were taking the "shall" out and putting "may" in?

SENATOR SCHMIT: On page...on line 22, I strike the "but" and insert the word "and" and on line 23, I strike the "need not" and insert a "shall".

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay. I believe at this time I would oppose this amendment. The intention of this bill was permissive legislation to the local NRDS. And the reason for that is, as I understand it, is because we felt that they...they would know the need better than we in Lincoln would know it. And so this is why we did this. But getting back to the judges' salary, and I kind of hate to bring this up, Senator Schmit, but I thought if we would keep that going from 5 percent increase to 3 percent increase, well, then we would have a little more money to help agriculture out. And so that's why I'm going to offer that amendment when it comes up. But getting back to this bill, I think that we need to start doing something. Senator Schmit, do you remember years ago when Senator Kahle was here? He introduced legislation such as this but he had his a lot more restrictive than this here legislation. Also, Senator Sieck worked long and hard on this type of legislation. And so I would just say to this body, I think LB 124 is a start in the right direction. I realize that it may not be perfect, but at least it's a start and so I would just urge you to vote against the Schmit amendment and then vote to advance the bill.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Rod Johnson, on the amendment.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I rise to reluctantly oppose Senator Schmit's amendment and suggest that the amendment may be somewhat out of place at this time. I think that I would have no problem supporting his amendment on Select File if, in fact, this Legislature chose not to reconsider his earlier motion. I suggest very strongly that Senator Schmit offer his earlier motion to put the \$4 million back into the program and see if there are not 25 votes to do that. If that should fail, if that should fail, then I think that it would be wise for Senator Schmit to offer this amendment and that way it would ensure some